



ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1876.

As will be seen by a telegram in another column of to-day's paper the long contested case of Knight vs. Johnson, in the Senate of Virginia, has at length, and properly, been settled by awarding the seat to Gen. Bradley T. Johnson. If of all the time consumed, the result had been otherwise, we should, like the President, have almost lost faith in human nature. The wonder is that nineteen of the men, some of whom were Conservatives, who heard Judge Sinclair's speech, could have voted as they did.

In alluding to the speech of Judge Sinclair, a synopsis of which appears elsewhere in to-day's paper, the Richmond correspondent of the Petersburg Index says: "Mr. Sinclair, of Prince William, one of the most stirring speakers in the Senate, a man who could rouse the popular heart, I know was the best speaker I heard to-day. Some of his sentences he sent forth with the force of a mallet blow. If they struck I'll bet they split something."

Mr. John Russell Young, who was sent to South Carolina by Mr. Bennett to write a "true story" of the political condition of that State, doubtless attempted that feat in a letter in yesterday's New York Herald, but, like most people from the North who write about Southern affairs, evinces such entire ignorance of the subject that the wonder is he should ever have been selected for the mission.

Judge Gilmor may have been right in his decision in the Maddox Bergen case, as reported in another column of to-day's paper, but people not versed in the law will be apt to think otherwise. We don't see what other mode of redress the Doctor had than the one he pursued, and to those who know him the wonder is that he did not go farther than he did. The law would certainly have given him no redress for the insult his wife received had he appealed to the courts, and, having no other recourse, he took the law into his own hands, and in so doing may have been wrong, but most people, in this section of country at least, will not think so.

The investigation now and for some time past in progress in the Maryland Legislature respecting the affairs of the C. & O. canal seems to show President Gorman's management of the canal to better colors the further it proceeds, and, from present indications, will completely vindicate that gentleman from all the charges that have been brought against him.

Ex-Gov. Letcher's proposed whiskey tax bill, the text of which is published in another column, will be read with interest by the large number of persons engaged in the production, sale and consumption of ardent spirits. Should it be enacted into a law the State will either speedily liquidate her indebtedness, or else become a community of teetotallers.

In the United States Senate, yesterday, Mr. Wright, of Iowa, reported adversely on the memorial of the Virginia Legislature, asking payment of the balance due this State by the Federal Government for money advanced during the war of 1812; and yet the same body voted to give \$1,500,000 to the Philadelphia Centennial.

The Centennial bill was signed by the President yesterday. The Washington Star says he "used for the purpose a pen made from the quill of an American eagle, furnished for that purpose by Joseph M. Wilson, of this city." And thus has the Government given \$1,500,000 to a Philadelphia joint stock company.

The indications are that the Democrats have carried the State of Texas by a majority of fifty thousand.

BURNING OF JORDAN'S SPRINGS.—The main hotel building at Jordan's White Sulphur Springs, near Winchester, was destroyed by fire last Tuesday night. The Baltimore Sun says: "The fire was first discovered on the roof of the kitchen and is supposed to have been caused by sparks from the chimney." Mr. E. C. Jordan found it impossible to obtain assistance, although he rang the alarm bell until the rope was burned. The building was consumed in about an hour. The loss is estimated at from \$20,000 to \$25,000. It is thought that the insurance is \$19,000. Mr. Jordan has been confined to his bed all day from over-exertion. Mr. Samuel K. Davies, of Baltimore, rendered valuable assistance. An effort will be made by means of a joint stock company to immediately rebuild. Mr. and Mrs. Jordan narrowly escaped with their lives. Less than a year ago Mr. Jordan lost about \$1,500 by the destruction of his stable by fire.

THE MIDLAND RAILROAD.—The Charlottesville Jeffersonian says:

"The indications point to the early erection here of the shops, furnaces, etc., of the Virginia Midland railroad. Without any positive knowledge in the matter, we venture the prediction that the short cut road will be built, and the workshops be in course of erection within twelve months."

Per contra the Gordonsville Gazette says: "Somebody has said that some day else has heard Mr. John S. Burroughs say that ground would be broken on the railroad from a point between Orange, C. H. and Rapidan to Charlottesville as soon as the spring opens. We have made diligent inquiry as to the truth of this rumor, and have to report it is not founded upon fact. Indeed we may pronounce it a 'fiction founded upon falsehood.'"

The Carlist situation is looking desperate, peace rumors prevail, and the relatives of Don Carlos, in Vienna, are expecting him home.

Richard Posey, who was committed to Port Tobacco jail on the charge of forgery, has been released on \$400 bail for his appearance at court.

LETTER FROM RICHMOND.

[Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.]

The grand jury of the Hastings Court was to-day engaged in the investigation of the alleged gambling cases and examined many witnesses, among others Col. John W. Minor, Door-keeper of the Senate, Wirt R. Berts, Coal Merchant, of this city, J. T. Beckham, George S. Stevens, Rudolph Wendlinger, Marx Mitteldorfer, R. H. Tally, member of the House, and Stovall, member of the House. The following parties were indicted for exhibiting faro and unlawful gaming: Geo. S. Stevens (two cases) Wm. H. Fowle, John A. Worsham, Jr., Thos. Lyon, Henry Wayt, James Walsh, James T. Bailey, George W. Morgan, William S. Rogan and George W. Hill. From many of the witnesses it was almost impossible to obtain anything; others were more frank and told without reserve their experiences. One gentleman, connected with the Legislature, was asked if he was ever in a gambling house, and if so, why he went. He responded that the meals at the hotels were so abominably cooked that he went to the gambling houses to get better. These suppers are what attract a large number into these halls of iniquity. They first go in just for the supper, and stake, perhaps, a dollar to pay for it. Then, after awhile, they go only to gamble and ignore the supper entirely.

The Stevens investigation committee was again in session to-day, but no new facts were elicited. Senator Claughton is summoned to appear before the committee to-morrow.

Senators Herndon and Claughton spoke in the Knight and Johnson case to-day in favor of seating Johnson. I understood that Senator Allen will speak to-morrow in favor of seating the election back to the people, and Mr. Daniel will close in favor of seating Johnson.

Mr. Stuart has a new scheme for the extension of the James River and Kanawha Canal, which he advocated at length to-day. He proposes that the canal be extended to Craig's Creek (about 18 miles from its present terminus), and from that point be connected by a temporary railroad with Clifton Forge. The work is to be done by the canal company, who are to have the aid of congressional provision of \$500,000, and he proposes that the canal company issue bonds at that amount bearing 8 per cent. interest, and running six or seven years. The interest to be guaranteed, three-fourths by Richmond and one-fourth by the city of Lynchburg. There will probably be a compromise of some kind.

STRONGBOW.

FOREIGN NEWS.

Cable dispatches give interesting particulars of the arrest of Winslow, the forger. Bang uncertain whether the United States had an extradition treaty with Holland, he left the steamer in a pilot boat and was landed on the Dutch coast, leaving his wife, sister and son on the steamer. Subsequently he went to Rotterdam, and from thence to London. His whereabouts in the latter city was discovered by intercepting a letter addressed to his wife, which disclosed his alias of Morton Lufferts, and where he could be found. His flight to London disconcerted the designs of the Dutch police, who intended to arrest him as a suspicious person before going under an alias, and conduct him to the frontiers, where he would have been taken into custody by the German police to hold him until the arrival of the papers warranting his extradition under the treaty with Germany. His baggage has been seized at Rotterdam and will be sent to London for examination. Winslow declares that he only took away \$6,000, the proceeds of private property belonging to his wife.

The bark Floka, which arrived at Queens-town from Baltimore, brought two of the crew of the ship W. J. Hatfield, from Philadelphia for Bremen, supposed to be the only survivors. The Floka encountered the Hatfield dismasted and water logged, and sent a boat to rescue the crew. The heavy sea prevented the boat from getting alongside. Three of the crew jumped overboard from the Hatfield, two of whom were picked up, but the third man drowned. The rest of the crew were unable to speak or move from exposure and want of water. The Floka laid to till daylight, when the Hatfield could not be seen and had probably foundered.

Mr. Jenkins, of Canterbury, denied the personality of Satan. The Rev. Mr. Cook refused Jenkins the sacrament. Jenkins sued and Mr. Cook got the worst of it.

Mr. Hurst, a Liberal member of the House of Commons, has been unseated because he promised to pay the voters their railroad fare to the polls.

The Bosnians and Herzegovinian insurgents reject the reforms suggested by the Austrian note.

The Empress of Austria is expected in England early in March to visit her sister, ex-Queen Caroline of Naples.

Dr. Teleman, professor of political economy at the University of Breslau, and member of the German Parliament, is dead.

THE BABCOCK TRIAL.—In the Babcock case yesterday ex Attorney General Williams opened the defence for the defendant. He criticised the evidence of the Government without admitting that it was competent evidence. He said the case might present suspicious circumstances, but not by any means sufficient to base a conviction upon. In his explanation he said that J. you and McDougal were trusted officials, and Babcock, warm-hearted and confident, could not give up a friendship at the first whisper of what he believed to be calumny. He alluded to the services of General Babcock in the late war, and his rise to the rank of Brigadier General by brevet, and his connection with the President as his Private Secretary. He made an explanation of the dispatches sent by Babcock as acts of friendship, without any criminal intent. Mr. Williams said the action of Judge in pretending to send \$1,000 in letter to Avery and Babcock was a mere trick to convince Everest, who was charged with putting them in the mail, so that he might assure the distillers that they were safe. The Slyth signature was a mere act of thoughtlessness or playfulness. He said no money had been sent to Babcock, as would be proved. He asked justice of the jury, not mercy, and trusted their verdict would be a triumphant acquittal. A number of witnesses were examined and testified to Gen. Babcock's integrity and faithfulness in all the positions he has filled in Washington since the war. Supervisor Tutton testified that he induced the President to revoke the order transferring him to St. Louis by stating that he must resign if the transfer was insisted upon, and advising that Mr. Brooks should be sent to detect frauds. Important letters were read showing the connection of Government officers with the Whiskey Ring. Dispatches received at Washington from St. Louis state that the general opinion there was that the case of the prosecution is a failure.

CONGRESS.

The following proceedings of Congress yesterday are additional to those published in the Gazette of this day:

In the Senate Mr. Anthony submitted a concurrent resolution that hereafter all speeches shall be inserted in the Congressional Record as actually delivered, except verbal corrections. An adverse report was made on the bill to settle the claims of the several States for advances made in the war of 1812; a similar adverse report was made on the memorial of the Virginia Legislature for payment of balance due that State for advances in the same war. A motion to take up Mr. Morton's resolution for the admission of Puchback as Senator from Louisiana was defeated by a vote of yeas 30, nays 33, the Republicans voting in the negative, fearing to come to a vote on the question because of the absence of several Senators who favor his admission. Messrs. Edmunds and West, Republicans, voted with the Democrats. The conference report on the joint resolution to pay the interest on the \$365 bonds of the District of Columbia was then called up and debated until the hour of adjournment.

In the House, a bill was introduced fixing the compensation to railroad companies for carrying the mails. A resolution was introduced calling on the Secretary of the Treasury for a list of all revenue delinquents since March 4, 1865, the amount of their delinquency, &c. A bill was passed extending the time for filing claims for additional bounty under the act of July 28, 1866, to July 1, 1880. A bill was reported from the Committee on Territories, to amend the act of March 3, 1865, on the admission of Colorado as a State; after discussion, the bill passed. The House took up the bill for organizing the judiciary, and a number of amendments were offered, but none were acted upon. The Speaker was granted leave of absence until Monday, in order to recruit his health.

LEGISLATIVE.

In the Virginia State Senate, yesterday Judge Critcher resumed his argument in the Knight-Johnson contested election case. He was followed by Senator Herndon, who also spoke in favor of seating General Johnson. Mr. Claughton took the floor at 12 o'clock and made an excellent speech, in defence of the position taken by him, favoring the seating of General Johnson. The debate was closed at 2 o'clock and will be resumed to-day, when Mr. Daniel, chairman of the committee, will occupy the floor.

In the House of Delegates, a bill for relief of late Sheriffs and other officers of the State was dismissed.

Bills providing for working of roads in Fauquier, incorporating the town of Waterford, Loudoun county; amending the Code in reference to the recordation of wills, and loaning arms to Fredericksburg Military Academy, were passed.

Bills relating to the University appropriation, amendments to the Constitution, and extending the James River and Kanawha Canal to Clifton Forge, were passed.

Mr. Gordon offered a resolution which was adopted rescinding the resolution heretofore adopted limiting speech at fifteen minutes. The Committee on Asylum and Prisons reported adversely on a bill to establish a house of correction in Richmond.

The Stevens-Fowle Proceedings.

The special committee of the House appointed to examine into the charges against Judge Stevens, yesterday, resumed their investigation by the examination of Mr. J. R. Truehart, editor of the State Journal. Col. Ronald read an editorial article, published in the Journal of the 14th, entitled "Testimony of Character," and proceeded to interrogate the witness as to the salient allegations made therein.

In answer, Mr. Truehart stated that, according to custom, he declined to answer the question who was the author of the article in the Journal of Monday upon the "Testimony of Character." He had no personal knowledge of the gentleman connected with the affair, nor on the transactions alluded to in the article. If he accepted the statement of the article published by Judge Stevens in the Whig, and also statements made in the Alexandria papers, and also the testimony of other parties representing themselves as acquainted with the facts, the article referred to was true. As to Judge Stevens' card, he did not think any question could be raised. The statements published in the Alexandria paper were not as published in his paper of the 14th, and to no other. Judge Stevens did not admit in his card that he had outwitted a young member of the Legislature in a state of intoxication and would ruin him bonds which were held in sacred trust. The card referring to the matter between himself (Stevens) and Captain Fowle said that the affair had been satisfactorily adjusted, or compromised, to the satisfaction of both parties, which he thought any man would accept as a confession of the facts which had been previously noticed abroad. The original was based entirely upon the facts to which he referred without knowing whether the allegations contained therein were true or false, except in being considered in journalism that sworn official testimony is unnecessary to the establishment of notorious facts. He would not swear to the truth of the statement made in said editorial. He meant by saying, "We all know him to be guilty," that every one who has kept track of the matter must be morally convinced that Judge Stevens was guilty of the charges.

Several other witnesses, whose names had been suggested in the Journal article, referred to above, were present by summons of the committee, but as it appeared from Mr. Truehart's testimony that there was no reason to believe that they knew anything about the subject of the investigation, the committee did not think it necessary to examine them. Gov. Letcher says he does not know either Fowle or Stevens personally, but has seen the former occasionally on the floor of the House.

The committee adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock to-morrow. After the committee meeting and before leaving the committee room, Gov. Letcher was informed by Mr. Truehart that the name of any person who had told him that he (Letcher) knew anything about the affair of Stevens or Fowle, Mr. Truehart declined to state, and the Governor thereupon pronounced the article a falsehood so far as it related to him.—Rich. Enquirer.

DISTRICT INVESTIGATION.—The District Investigating Committee continued yesterday its examination of the recent operations of the District officials. Messrs. Hunt and Butler, Arthur Shepherd and others were examined, the evidence showing that favored parties bought at nominal rates claims which had been rejected, and then got them through, realizing six or seven hundred per cent by the speculation. Capt. Morris Murphy, who suffered in this way, was for some years a resident of Alexandria, and occupied the house on the north side of King street adjoining the corner of Patrick street.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

It is supposed that John Curran alias Thos. Curran, a desperado whose deeds have made him well-known to the police of this part of the country, will again escape. He has some indictments pending against him in this State, and he was held in jail in Washington for an assault with intent to kill, when he was taken to Cumberland, Md., on a requisition from Gov. Carroll on the charge of an attempt at highway robbery on Treasury Fawcett, of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company. The trial on that charge will, it is said by gentlemen familiar with the facts, most likely result in an acquittal and Curran is likely to be discharged at Cumberland and go south free. Preparations are being made to prevent this, and a telegram on the subject was sent to Cumberland yesterday evening.

The steamer George Appold, from Baltimore for Boston, ran into the ship Baltimore, from Bremen for Baltimore, Monday night, near North Point, the anchor on the bow of the George Appold tearing away the chain plates and rigging on the port side of the Baltimore, which carried away the mizzen-mast. The Appold's same night also ran into and sunk off Thomas' Point the schooner John Henry, bound from Baltimore to Philadelphia. The captain and crew of the John Henry were picked up and carried to Norfolk. The vessel and cargo, which consisted of 3,600 bushels of corn, were valued at \$5,000. The George Appold lost her topmast and was otherwise slightly damaged.

At the Plymouth Church Advisory Council, yesterday morning, Rev. Dr. Ball read two resolutions declaring the innocence of Henry Ward Beecher, and notwithstanding the calls to order, spoke in advocacy of his resolutions. He was finally stopped by the Moderator declaring him out of order, and on appealing from the decision, the Moderator was sustained by a unanimous vote. The rest of the morning session was occupied in listening to the statement of Mrs. Munton and the protest of ex Deacon West regarding the same matter. Mr. Seaman spoke at great length, explaining the failure of the attempt to call the Mutual Council.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Atlantic, Mississippi and Ohio railroad was held at Petersburg, Va., on Tuesday. The annual report for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1875, was presented, showing a gross revenue of \$1,732,433.42, and the expenses \$1,108,947.66, leaving a net revenue of \$623,505.77, showing that there was a decrease compared with the previous fiscal year of \$42,889.88.

The breaking up of the ice has caused a freshet in the Mohawk Valley, New York. At Schenectady the lower portion of the city was flooded, and piles of ice in some places twenty feet high so encumbered the railroad tracks that travel was impeded. At Amsterdam the water rose 15 feet on Tuesday night, but fell about two feet to-day.

The Indiana Greenback Convention in session yesterday at Indianapolis passed resolutions demanding the immediate repeal of the Resumption law, and instructed their delegates to the National Convention to vote for Senator Booth, of California, as candidate for President.

Judge Sinclair's Speech.

The Richmond Whig, in noticing the speech of Judge Sinclair, one of the Senators from this district, on the Knight-Johnson contested election case, in the Virginia Senate, last Monday, says:

"It was the first set speech he has made in the Senate, and he listened to with marked attention. After referring to his slight acquaintance with the two parties to the contest, not extending in either case beyond the interchange of ordinary courtesies, he said he was not to advocate of any person, faction or party in this election case, nor should he heed the waves of an angry public opinion that were lashing the base of this Capitol. His object was to get at the truth and justice of the case. As Martin Luther said on a memorable occasion, he should do as duty as he understood it, if there were as many devils at Worms as there were times upon the house, so he meant to do his duty in this case, regardless of outside clamor and excitement. He said his district was not boiling over with this contention, in this subject, which was said to exist in this city. He was responsible for his course to his constituency and they expected him to act conscientiously. He complimented the Senators who had spoken in favor of the minority report on the abuse of their remarks of heated personalities. He said this was not a mere contest between two individuals, a Knight and Johnson. It is more. Knight does not claim the seat, but stands as a relator to the people of this Senatorial District, asking only a remission of the election to the people. Senator Sinclair protested against such an abuse of position, and he said he intended to do so. To do so would not only be to meet manfully the expectations of the constituent body, but would again stir up strife in the metropolitan district. He referred to the protected sessions and arduous labors of the Senate, and said that his report should be respected and relied upon. That report recognized the right of General Johnson to the seat. In the progress of debate the case had been narrowed down to the questions connected with the first precinct of Jefferson ward. He admitted, the fact that the precinct was not a fair one, but he intended to migrate or extenuate it. But it was such a fraud as could be and had been measured and eliminated. Such being the case, and there being a clear majority for Johnson after the elimination of the fraud, it could not be fairly claimed that the election should be set aside. He then proceeded to read Valden's testimony in the case. He read and commented upon it in so comic a manner as to excite much merriment. He concluded that according to the testimony Valden had not taken more than four drinks of toddy, and that he was not an average senator. He gave his theory of the purpose of the searching examination to which Valden had been subjected. Had he been as drunk as the other side claimed, instead of seeing one ballot box he would have seen a number of them. He asked, whether the testimony, if it had been correct, that there were such disorders and frauds at the precinct, as would justify setting aside the election? He said no jury would hang a dog upon the testimony used to discredit and destroy the election officers. Of course there was fraud, but he did not think it had been proved on the election officers. He argued that it might have been committed by others who were present. He denied that there was what is known as ballot box stuffing, and gave a humorous description of that process as practiced in some States. He contended that the fact was well known to be presumed to be honest until guilt was brought home to them, and referred to their recent trial and acquittal before a court of justice. He traced what he designated as the boundary of the fraud that had been committed, and said that being enough to show Johnson's election, the seat should be given to him. Who committed the fraud was one of those inscrutable mysteries that cannot be penetrated. He applied what he called the crucial test to the facts and figures, and said that before it the 'exaggerated and ramified frauds' disappeared. He spoke in a highly eulogistic manner of the majority report and of its distinguished author. He said the report was like Patrick's marble inked with poisoned gold. He protested against invoking the aid of the era of party which had been resorted to. Equity follows the law, and in this case both met. You may drive General Johnson from his seat; you may be frightened into believing him not by the muttering thunders, but he would not assist in doing so. He asked if the best established principles of law were to be sacrificed to passion and prejudice? If there was anything he abhorred it was persecution and oppression. He complimented General Johnson highly on his industry, courtesy, ability and integrity, and said the Conservatives would rue the day when they ejected him from the Senate.

The Duke Decazes thinks the Republic is the only possible government for France.

Tax on Whiskey.

Ex-Governor Letcher will offer the following amendment to the proposed State tax bill:

Upon whiskey or other ardent spirits, including rectified liquor, wine, or any mixture of them, there shall be imposed a tax of thirty-five cents upon a gallon of proof liquor, or upon any quantity less than a gallon, should such a quantity be sold, a like tax; and upon malt liquor or cider a tax of ten cents a gallon shall be imposed, which shall be collected in the following manner:

All whiskey or other taxed liquor, including rectified liquor, sold in the State must first pass through some licensed warehouse, to be licensed in the manner prescribed by the First Auditor. Each distiller shall appropriate a room for the purpose as shall each man buying liquor from abroad or other States, or a distiller. The owner and State collector shall each have a key, nor shall any pass out of the warehouse unless the collector be present, and affix stamps, with coupons attached, representing the quantity of such liquor in the vessel. These stamps and coupons to be paid for by the purchaser before he withdraws the liquor. These coupons shall represent the smallest quantity of liquor allowed to be sold at one time, the quantity to be fixed by regulation of the First Auditor. Whenever the liquor is sold which the coupon represents, the coupon must be cut off and returned to the collector, who shall pay the owner—cents therefor, payable in stamps. The vessel from which sales are made must have a stamp and coupons representing the amount of liquor it contains. If the man withdraws liquor from the warehouse and sells to a retailer a vessel with the coupons, from which some of the coupons have been cut off, he shall take a receipt from the purchaser designating the number of coupons sold with the liquor, and until his annual settlement with the collector these receipts, together with the coupons in his possession, must correspond with the number received from the collector, as may appear from the books which the said collector shall keep, so as to designate the coupons and stamps received and the person receiving them. Every retailer shall be required to show stamps and coupons representing all the taxable liquor he has on hand for sale, and any person who shall use coupons twice, or sell liquor not represented by them shall forfeit a sum not less than \$10 or more than \$1,000 (of which the informer upon whose evidence he is convicted shall receive one-half) and the offender shall be imprisoned in a public jail or penitentiary for a term of not less than one or more than twelve months. No public carrier, conductor of cars, captain of vessel or steamer, or person of any sort, shall deliver elsewhere than to a licensed warehouse, under regulations to be prescribed by the First Auditor, unless it has previously passed through such warehouse with the knowledge of the collector; and any person who shall violate this provision, upon conviction thereof shall pay a fine of not less than \$10 or more than \$100, unless the liquor therein transported is worth more than the fine herein imposed, in which case he shall pay double the amount of the value of the liquor thus illicitly delivered, instead of these fines. The informer upon whose evidence conviction is obtained shall receive half the amount of the fine imposed, and any person so offending shall suffer imprisonment for a term of not less than—months or more than—months. Upon the second conviction of the said offence by an authorized agent of the owner of said conveyance, the boat, car or other conveyance shall be forfeited to the use of the Commonwealth. Any person who, knowingly shall receive or sell liquor thus delivered shall suffer the penalty aforesaid, whether by fine or imprisonment. Every person selling said taxable liquors shall exhibit to the first authorized question him, (taxable liquor on hand, together with coupons and receipts from persons to whom he has sold an amount corresponding with the liquor sold at the warehouse, of which an account shall be kept, as aforesaid.

If any person shall desire to transport liquor for sale in another State he shall be allowed to do so without the payment of any tax upon giving a bond with sufficient security that such liquor shall not be sold during its passage through this State, or until it arrives at the State of its destination, as specified in the bond. A gallon of spirit as herein mentioned as liable to taxation, except after rectification, is taken as a gallon of proof spirits. Proof spirits shall be held and taken to be that alcoholic liquor which contains one-half its volume of alcohol of a specific gravity of seven thousand nine hundred and thirty-nine thousandths at sixty degrees Fahrenheit. And the Auditor of Public Accounts, for the detection and prevention of fraud by persons engaged in manufacturing or selling taxable liquors, is hereby authorized to adopt such hydrometers and gauging instruments for ascertaining the quantity, gravity and strength of such distilled spirits as he may deem necessary, and he may prescribe rules and regulations to secure a uniform and correct system of inspection, marking, and gauging such spirits. In all sales of spirits hereafter made, a gallon shall be taken to be a gallon of proof spirits, according to the foregoing standard set forth and declared for the inspection and gauging of spirits throughout the State.

Every person who rectifies, purifies or refines distilled spirits or wines by any process, and every wholesale or retail liquor dealer or compounder of liquors, who has in his possession any still or stills, tubs, or two shall keep any other apparatus for the purpose of rectifying in any manner distilled spirits, shall be deemed to be a rectifier, and shall be liable in all respects as the distiller to the manner of sale and storage, and to the same tax as the distiller or vendor, as herein authorized, of whiskey or other ardent spirits, wine, malt liquors, or any mixture of any of them, and shall be subject to the same penalties for any violation of the provisions in regard to sale or storage as are herein imposed in the case of the distiller. But the said rectifier shall be entitled to a rebate on the price of the liquor he is to be rectified, which shall be proved to the collector, by such evidence and in such manner as the Auditor of Public Accounts may require; provided, however, that the distiller may rectify liquors distilled by himself, and pay tax on it on the quantity which remains after deducting therefrom the quantity distilled, and upon which he has already paid a tax; provided further, that no tax shall be required to be paid on liquors made by the distillation of fruits, if the distillery in which it is made shall not be in operation more than three months, or if the rectified liquor shall be proved to the collector, by such evidence and in such manner as the Auditor of Public Accounts may require; provided, however, that the distiller may rectify liquors distilled by himself, and pay tax on it on the quantity which remains after deducting therefrom the quantity distilled, and upon which he has already paid a tax; 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